Arkwood

Superfund Fact Sheet

October 6, 1988

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its review of the results from the latest round of samples. Water well, spring, and soil samples have been collected by Mass Merchandisers' contractor as part of the continuing investigation of the contamination at the Arkwood site. The results of all available data indicate the following:

- Water wells

During the last three sampling periods (May 1987, April 1988, and July 1988), fifteen residential and city wells were sampled. Contaminants were detected in only one residential well on one date. In that instance, about 5 parts per million of phenols were detected. However, this well was immediately resampled in June and July and these samples did not show any contamination. The data from all other wells sampled to date indicates that they are not affected by the Arkwood site.

- Surface water

Thirteen springs have been sampled during the three sampling events since the Remedial Investigation began. The only spring which shows detectable levels of contaminants is New Cricket Spring. Pentachlorophenol (PCP) at levels of about 2 parts per million, is the only contaminant found in this spring.

Cricket and Walnut Creeks have been sampled downgradient of the site. No contaminants have been detected in these creeks. Additionally, two samples of rainwater runoff from the site were tested and did not contain any contaminants.

- Soil

Since last spring, 90 soil samples have been obtained to identify the extent of contamination at the Arkwood site. Most of the sampling so far has been to determine the areal extent of contaminants but additional sampling has begun to determine the vertical extent of contamination.

The contaminants most frequently found at the site are pentachlorophenol and a group of chemicals derived from creosote known as polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Some examples of PAHs found at the site are naphthalene, fluorene, and chrysene. The highest concentration of PCP found at the site is 6,800 parts per million which was identified in the old treatment/drip tracks area.

In addition to PCP and PAHs, very low levels of dioxins and furans have been detected at the site. However, the most toxic and well-known type of dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlordibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) has not been identified at the site. The low levels of non-TCDD dioxins and furans found at the site do not pose a significant risk to community health.

Soil samples have also been obtained from sediment in the drainage ditches adjacent to Cricket Spring and the railroad tracks, as well as in the Cricket Creek and Walnut Creek channels. Low concentractions of PCP and PAHs were detected in some of the drainage ditch samples closest to the site. No contaminants were found in the bottom sediment from Cricket and Walnut Creeks.

- Other Activities

Mass Merchandisers has installed a rain gauge on-site and has constructed a stream flow measurement device on Cricket Spring to determine the quantity of PCP flowing from the spring and the time it takes for the spring to respond to rainfall events. In addition, two onsite geophysical surveys were conducted to gather information on subsurface features such as sinkholes.

The next round of water well/spring samples is planned for October 1988. However, plans may change because this round of sampling should be obtained after a significant rainfall. Every effort will be made to reduce any inconvenience during the sampling effort.

Overall, the remedial investigation is now proceeding on schedule and we expect to have the results of the investigation as well as a proposed plan of action ready for public comment in early 1990.

If you have any questions regarding this site or the Superfund program, please call or write to:

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